



Newsletter No. 1

05 March 2012



Welcome to our first newsletter!

1. Our section

1.1 Introduction

In our newsletter we have included two sections: one from the **Friends of Science in Medicine (FSM)** - (*Our section*) and one from you - (*Your section*). We would like to keep our *Friends* informed of what is going on in the world of media, including articles, interviews and events related to activities of the **FSM** or that mention our activities.

In the short period since its inception on 20 December 2011, the **FSM** has attracted a remarkable body of people of very high calibre in their professions as clinicians, academics, researchers, etc and an impressive list of amazing consumer advocates who support our aim:

"to reverse the current trend which sees government-funded tertiary institutions offering courses in the health care sciences that are not underpinned by convincing scientific evidence".

We are delighted that some institutions are responding to our requests to maintain the highest standard of science-based teaching. We are aware that this interest has also raised justified concerns from those with obvious vested interests against our campaign.

1.2 Scuttlebutt!

As you might expect, our opponents are doing what they can to discredit our attempts and to muddy our message. This column will tell you some of what we know is going on. Please let us know of anything else that you hear or read that can find its place in here.

- The Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) printed a feature on FSM, the online version of which was accompanied by a poll asking whether Complementary and Alternative Medicines (CAMs) should be taught in our universities or not. Initially this poll was very strongly against such teaching but, as it progressed, we were sent two intercepted emails, apparently from people and a company in the CAM lobby, urging their supporters to knobble the poll by swamping it with YES replies. SMH cottoned onto this and ran an expose. This helps to show the lengths to which supporters of CAMs will stoop to protect their turf. Even so, the poll finished strongly against such teaching.
- Opponents have also been circulating misinformation that various people have withdrawn their names from our list of *Friends* because they realised they had not been told the truth about what we were doing. It is another falsehood. Only 3 people have had to withdraw

their public support, and that was because of institutional commitments or from intimidation from their CAM colleagues. Even though these people asked for their names to be removed from our list of *Friends*, they assure us that they still support our current campaign.

1.3 Website News

Our website www.scienceinmedicine.org.au was launched on the 05 March 2012. At this time it covers the basics (history, principles, contact details etc), with lots of links to articles of interest including recent news items and some information about our *Friends*. When we significantly change any of our articles, add new menu items or if we include additional features to our website, we will tell you about them here.

1.4 What's new since our last Newsletter?

In future newsletters, we will also include a sub-section on any progress with our current campaign or any new campaigns that we are working on.

1.5 Items of interest

In future newsletters, we will include a sub-section on items of interest that have occurred since our previous newsletter. If you have any items you would like published here, (good and bad) just forward them on to us.

We would also like to include articles written by people who share our vision of fostering good science in medicine and we may include them in our newsletters as well as the website.

You don't have to be medical to write it ! We are interested in promoting good science as well as good medicine.

1.5 What can you do?

We would appreciate being alerted of any further events we may not be aware of - so feel free to let us know of events or media that we may have missed.

1.6.Acknowledgments & Congratulations

A big thanks to James Morrison, who designed and set up our logo!

2. Your Section

2.1 Articles

This section will contain articles submitted by people who support our principles. We may contact you for an article or if you have written one or want to, feel free to contact us for guidelines on writing them.

2.2 Your story

Many of you are quiet achievers - why not tell us your story to inspire others?

2.3 Good web links

We can always add a few good links that you think others would appreciate, so contact us and send them in!

Here is one that one of our supporters alerted us to:

- [How does Acupuncture work: RMIT](#)

If you have found relevant articles or material on the website, please send us the website link with a one or two sentence description of the links relevance (eg Good article on CAMs; Fraudulent treatment being advertised; Critique of FSM by opponents etc). We can then let other people know about them via our website and newsletter.

Just a reminder, contact us at : info@scienceinmedicine.org.au (email) www.scienceinmedicine.org.au (website)
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